



Press Release

INTERNATIONALE TANZMESSE NRW

2 May 2024

Düsseldorf becomes a hub for the international dance scene. The 30th anniversary of the internationale tanzmesse nrw will be characterised by polyphony and outstanding new productions.

The 15th internationale tanzmesse nrw, a project of nrw landesbuero tanz, takes place from 28 to 31 August 2024 and will once again make Düsseldorf the international hub of the contemporary dance scene. More than 1,500 artists and dance professionals from 50 countries are expected to attend Tanzmesse to exchange ideas on current topics and present and offer new works. The 2024 programme will focus on topics such as cultural identity, community, migration and the heterogeneity of bodies.

In addition to the programme for professional visitors, audiences in NRW are invited to attend a number of public performances to gain an impression of current developments in contemporary dance. Once again, Krefeld joins Düsseldorf as a location for the Tanzmesse 2024.

Isa Köhler and Katharina Kucher, co-directors of the internationale tanzmesse nrw since 2022: *“In our anniversary year 2024, we expect the full diversity and power of the contemporary dance scene in Düsseldorf. With 85 spaces already booked and exhibitors from over 50 countries, an intensive exchange is guaranteed. We are delighted about the renewed participation of Plataforma Iberoamericana de Danza, Creative Australia and Dance of Korea, among others, as exhibitors. Many new participants, such as delegations from Portugal, the Balkans and South Africa, are enriching our Agora with perspectives from all over the world.”*

Video: The co-directors and curators present the Tanzmesse 2024 programme.

The heart of the largest professional meeting for contemporary dance is the Agora. This is where companies, artists, institutions and organisations present and network. 2024 is the first time for the Agora to be set up in the former building of the Düsseldorf Central Library.

The Tanzmesse jury, which consists of Tanzmesse co-directors Isa Köhler and Katharina Kucher as well as associate curators Julia Asperska (Poland), Dan Daw (UK), Natacha Melo (Uruguay) and Quito Tembe (Mozambique), reviewed a total of 900 proposals from an open call. From those, 19 productions were selected and invited to be presented in full length, another 27 in Open Studios and 18 in Insights, shorter presentation formats that introduce professional visitors to existing works, upcoming projects, inspiring networks and other new developments in the industry.

Five programme highlights for dance audiences in NRW and beyond

The public from Düsseldorf and the surrounding area is cordially invited to experience the opening of the Tanzmesse with AeReA by the Italian duo Panzetti / Ticconi on Gustaf-Gründgens-Platz in front of the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus theatre.

Two major productions are on the programme in the Mitsubishi Electric HALLE: on 29 August, the performance *I'M NOT JUST ME IN MYSELF - STATE OF NATURE - PROCEDURE 01* by Grupo Cena 11 presents identity as constant change and raises the question: What could a “Brazilian dance” be? In *VAGABUNDUS* on 30 August, choreographer Idio Chichava draws inspiration from the dance rituals of the Makonde people living in Mozambique and neighbouring countries.

ein Projekt von
nrw landesbuero

tanz.

In *Anda, Diana*, performed on 30 August on the big stage at tanzhaus nrw, Portuguese choreographer, dancer and author Diana Niepce gives a very intimate insight into her personal history and questions body norms. The Tanzmesse will conclude with the production of *MELLOWING* by Dance On Ensemble at the Düsseldorf Opera House on 31 August, for which tickets can already be booked. In the performance *MELLOWING*, Greek choreographer Christos Papadopoulos explores together with the dancers of the ensemble minimal shifts in perception in nature, in everyday life, within physical phenomena and political contexts. The public programme is now available at: www.tanzmesse.com/en/tanzmesse/2024/visitors/

Professionals Programme

Besides the Agora's vibrant networking hub, the performance programme offers professional visitors an overview of the diverse international dance scene during the four days of the event. In the Talk & Connect discourse programme, professional visitors exchange ideas with each other in various non-hierarchical formats following a keynote speech. The working themes are "Contemporaneity", "Solidarity" and "Connections of the Global South", which are also reflected in the Tanzmesse performances. The Pre-Day NRW on 27 August, organised by the Tanzmesse in cooperation with the Cultural Office of the City of Krefeld, invites international professional visitors to get to know Fabrik Heeder in Krefeld and the artists working there. An artistic tour through the impressive former wallpaper factory includes short performances, presentations, installations and interventions.

At the opening on 28 August 2024, professional visitors can enjoy two performances on the big stages of tanzhaus nrw and FFT Düsseldorf, respectively: *HATCHED ENSEMBLE*, a production by South African choreographer, performer and activist Mamela Nyamza, and *40/40* by Scottish-based choreographer Katherina Radeva.

Advance tickets for the piece *MELLOWING* by the Dance On Ensemble with choreographer Christos Papadopoulos are now available. Tickets for other public events as well as registration for professional visitors will be available from the beginning of June at www.tanzmesse.com

nrw landesbuero tanz

The organiser of the internationale tanzmesse nrw is the nrw landesbuero tanz under the management of Heike Lehmke. The nrw landesbuero tanz is an information and networking centre as well as a point of contact for the professional dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia. It initiates projects, co-operations and discourses in the field of professional contemporary dance and supports the work of dance professionals in NRW. With its projects, it gives dance public visibility and opens up diversity-related approaches to dance.

Contact

Hendrik von Boxberg press@tanzmesse.com T +49 177 7379207

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